Remuneration paid to Shri S. Gurumurthy by Indian Express

1893. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. S. Gurumurthy was paid enormous remuneration for writing articles for Indian Express Group of Papers during 1985 and 1986;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Mr. Gurumurthy deliberately avoided in mentioning the correct remuneration paid to him in the income tax returns filed by him for the respective years; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and take necessary action against Mr. Gurumurthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) It is reported that no returns of income have been filed by Mr. S. Gurumurthy for assessment years 1985-86 and 1986-87. However, notices under Section 148 and 139(2) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 have been issued for the respective years asking him to file returns of income. The return for asseessment year 1987-88 has not fallen due. Whether enormous remuneration for writing articles for Indian Express Group of Papers was received by him can be ascertained only after returns of income are filed or assessments are made.

Rental income of Indian Express Newspapers Private Limited

1894. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rental income in the last three years of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited and whether this has been included in the Income Tax returns; and

(b) what is its total profits of the company during the last three years alongwith the divdents paid to shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The rental income in the last three years of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited is as under:

Asstt. Year	Rental income
1984-85	2,29,19,284
1985-86	2,64,86,901
1986-87	68,93,810

This has been included in the income-tax returns.

(b) The book profits of the company during the last three years are as under:

Asstt Year.	Book Profits
1984-85	50,33,694
1985-86	95,63,200
1986-87	74,29,337

The dividend paid to the shareholders during these years is 'NIL'.

Profitability of Goenka Group of Companies

1895. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in R. N. Goenka group of Companies, the profitability of the holding company is kept at low level by various dubious devices;

(b) whether these devices amount to frauds and violate various rules of Government; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

Economic Development of Manipur

1896. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take special and urgent measures for economic development of Manipur; and

(b) if so, what are the specific steps so far taken in the direction of (i) expansion of railways, (ii) Industrial development, (iii) expansion of road transport, (iv) step-up of agricultural projection and (v) flood control etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Economic development of Manipur is mainly undertaken through the State Plans. As against the Sixth Plan outlay of Rs. 240 crores, the outlay for the Seventh Plan is Rs. 430 crores Not only the entire Seventh Plan is to be funded through Central assistance, even the deficit in State's own resources estimated to be (–) Rs. 115 crores is to be met through Central assistance.

Manipur is a Special Category State. It receives Central assistance for i's plans on liberalised basis *viz.* 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan as against 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant given to general category States of the country. A number of schemes are also taken up under the North Eastern Council. In addition, additive Central assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan, Central sector schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes also go towards the development of the State.

(b) (i) A new Metre Gauge railway line from Silchar in Assam to Jiribam in Manipur for a length of 49 Km. is under construction and is expected to be completed by the end of the Seventh Plan.

(ii) For the industrial development of the State, a number of medium industrial units have been included in the Seventh Plan of the State. The State, being 'A' Category industrially backward area, 25 per cent of the investment of fixed capital is given as Central investment subsidy, subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs in each case. Additional encouragement is given through provision of transport subsidy. The transport subsidy, to and fro Siliguri, has been raised from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

(iii) Special attention has been given to the development of infrastructure of roads and road transport. The Seventh Plan outlay of Rs. 71.50 crores on transport sector is more than double the Sixth Plan outlay of Rs. 35 crores on the secor. The road transport fleet has been strengthened and the State Government has been urged to improve the performance of the road transport undertaking.

(iv) The agriculture and allied services sector has been given special emphasis. As against Rs. 28.4 crores Sixth Plan outlay the Seventh Plan outlay for the sector is